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Here the main Andean river courses, narrowed and broken by rapids and bordered by belts of forest, are incised beneath the uplands, which break off 70 or 80 miles from the Andes in a bold escarpment, irregularly lobate in plan, fronted by isolated sandstone outliers and dwindling hills of the underlying impervious beds, all heavily tree-covered. Thus descent is made to a forested plain in which the main rivers, as well as many others which are fed by copious springs that issue from the impervious beds at the base of the sandstone escarpment, wander freely eastward in split or meandering channels without rapids. The plain is, however, followed by a second upland, the Mesa of Yambi, which is described as composed of the same heavy pervious sandstones as those of the Mesa of Pardaos and as presenting an escarpment to the west as well as to the east. It is only after passing the second mesa, in which the rivers are again broken by rapids, that at a distance of 140 miles from the Andes the vast east-stretching area of crystalline rocks is entered upon; for the first 60 miles it is a peneplain of gneiss at an altitude of about 200 meters, but farther on it is much interrupted by granitic monadnocks, often bare, rising from 100 to 900 meters, as Wallace long ago reported. It is in this region, which extends for 150 miles or more to the sandstone tableland of Guiana, that the Cassiquiare connects the Orinoco with the Negro-Amazon. Bauer ascribes the bifurcation to a capture of Orinoco waters by a tributary of the Negro, because he finds the fall of the latter to be steeper than that of the former; but, until the topographic details of a very recently formed elbow of capture are found, the case can hardly be considered proved.

The several chapters of which the foregoing physiographic summary is an abstract, are less easily understood than could be wished; partly because the simple forms of the region are treated with unnecessary, even laborious elaboration, partly because the generalizations as to topography are complicated by discussions of the misunderstandings of earlier explorers, and still more because the text is not sufficiently illuminated with diagrams. It is especially for the latter reason that the relation of the Mesa of Yambi to the Mesa of Pardaos is not clear. A greater importance is attached to the warm and wet climate in the sculpturing of the region than seems warranted, for very similar landforms are found in other regions of similar structure but different climate.

W. M. DAVIS

#### A SCIENTIFIC GUIDEBOOK

W. M. DAVIS. **A Handbook of Northern France.** xi and 174 pp.; maps, diagrs., index. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1918. \$1.00. 6½ x 4½ inches.

The unusual success of this little book, which was used by thousands of officers in France, is truly merited. It supplies material (which can be found in no other English book) on those broad features of the geography of northern France that every person interested in the larger operations and relations of the war finds indispensable. Professor Davis has selected the outstanding features of geology, topography, drainage, coal basins, railroads, etc., and has placed them upon original sketches, block diagrams, etc., in such a way as to give a vivid picture and explanation of the country. It is not a book useful merely in time of war; it is an admirable guidebook for the thoughtful traveler. The graphic quality of Professor Davis' drawings was never put to a more useful purpose. The small pocket size enables one to carry it conveniently.

#### FRENCH DEVELOPMENT OF MOROCCO

COMTE DE LA REVELIÈRE. **Les énergies françaises au Maroc: Études économiques et sociales.** 2nd edit. xiv and 561 pp.; maps, ill., index. Plon-Nourrit & Cie., Paris, 1917. 12 frs. 50. 10 x 6½ inches.

The book shows what Morocco, now a protectorate of France, bids fair to become under the policy that France has been pursuing since 1911. Morocco includes two great areas that are very dissimilar. The regions seaward of the Atlas Mountains have an adequate amount of rain, and winds from the Atlantic cool the air so that the climate is temperate and healthful and productive of abundant verdure. These regions have the further advantage of good soil, so that a vast area is well adapted both for grazing and cultivation.

On the other hand, the regions inland from the Atlas are nearly rainless—a brown and arid expanse, torrid in temperature a part of the year and blistered by hot winds from the Sahara. The French, naturally, are confining their attention to the more promising part of the country (see map in *Geogr. Rev.*, Vol. 8, p. 57).

The result is that knowledge of the land has been largely advanced, and most of the people, finding that the foreign régime is protecting their lives and property, are cheerfully accepting it. Ten years ago two-thirds of the population were unfriendly to all whites. Travelers, as a rule, had to take circuitous routes to reach their destination. The telegraph and telephone were not known except in a few coast towns. Morocco was